

to be ashamed of the fact that they do not speak the English or French they have had no chance to learn. The Black-is-Beautiful concept is beginning to have some impact in the West Indies. Black students in Jamaica have marched with black unemployed against a black government in the name of Black Power.

In "The Aftermath of Sovereignty" Frantz Fanon points out that Africans think of black West Indians as being Europeans. The puzzled search of West Indians for the cultural values of black Africa may eventually be helped by new studies, like Basil Davidson's "African Kingdoms" (Time-Life Books, New York, 1971). There are several discussions of West Indian literature and of literature written by West Indians of various ethnic origins. Some writers of world renown have come from the West Indies. Most of the last volume is devoted to independence and postindependence politics. In Jamaica, Haiti, and the smaller islands political parties are arranged largely along color lines between lighter and darker Afro-Saxons: in Trinidad and Guyana party and trade-union lines are cultural, with Africans being opposed to East Indians. Political attempts to create a West Indian federation or some other machinery for cooperation is discussed in several essays from several points of view.

My necessarily brief review of this large body of material can only touch on some of the main themes. This is a most valuable series of readings about the English- and French-speaking West Indies and about problems that also affect many other areas. The articles are not all of equal merit, but the editors may feel that a few obscurantist articles help to complete the picture of West Indian cultural attitudes and to show all the problems with which politicians, journalists, writers, and academicians have to contend. — DONALD Q. INNIS

THE ICE AGE IN BRITAIN. By B. W. SPARKS and R. G. WEST. xvii and 346 pp.; maps, diags., ill., bibliogr., index. Methuen & Co. Ltd., London; Barnes & Noble Books, New York, 1972. \$19.50. 9½ x 6¼ inches.

LE QUATERNAIRE: L'Histoire humaine dans son environnement. By JEAN CHALINE. v and 338 pp.; maps, diags., ill., bibliogr., index. Doin, éditeurs, Paris, 1972. 92F. 9¾ x 7¼ inches.

Broad, interdisciplinary interest in the environmental context of prehistoric man has increased steadily over the past decade, reflecting in no small measure the growing appreciation of the educated lay public as well as of a new generation of anthropologists for an understanding of the ecology of preliterate populations. The recent appearance of two well-illustrated and comprehensive works that deal with the methods and achievements of Pleistocene ecology and stratigraphy underscore the point. B. W. Sparks and R. G. West's "The Ice Age in Britain" is ostensibly aimed at secondary-school students and at the general public and is deliberately British in focus. "Le Quaternaire: L'Histoire humaine dans son environnement," by Jean Chaline, is more candidly pitched at the level of college students and secondary-school teachers and is in the main presented from a French perspective. All three authors have considerable experience in geomorphology, but each is a recognized expert in some aspect of paleobiology: West is an internationally renowned palynologist, Sparks has done authoritative work on British and African nonmarine mollusca, and Chaline is a fossil rodent specialist.

It is therefore not surprising to find refreshing new vistas, which existing studies, such as those of geologist Richard Foster Flint (*Glacial and Quaternary Geology* [3rd edit.; John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, London, and elsewhere, 1971]) and geographer Karl W. Butzer (*Environment and Archeology: An Ecological Approach to Prehistory* [2nd edit.; Aldine-Atherton, Chicago, 1971]), lack. At the same time, neither of the newer books represents a major departure from the traditional geological mold of Flint. Well over half of Sparks and West's book is devoted to geomorphology and stratigraphy, a third to paleobiology, and an eighth to prehistoric man. Their presentation is terse, accurate, and professional, if somewhat unimaginative and decidedly parochial. Some sections, including those on megafaunas, geographical synthesis, and paleoclimatology, are weak or uneven.

By contrast, one third of Chaline's volume is devoted to geomorphology and stratigraphy and another third to prehistoric man; only a fifth deals with paleobiology. A disturbing lack of critical facility is apparent in most sections, with minor and major errors of fact or evaluation so commonplace that the book can hardly be recommended to the uninitiated. The sections that espouse the fourfold Alpine glacial sequence and the treatment of absolute dating, high sea levels, and alluvial stratigraphy are simplistic, while the interpretation of periglacial phenomena assumes that all such features are of like environmental import. Equally disturbing is Chaline's unbiological, stratigraphical treatment of Pleistocene faunas and hominid evolution, the latter materials being additionally fraught with misconceptions. So, for example, divergence of hominids and anthropoid apes is postulated at thirty to forty million years ago; *Oreopithecus* is felt to be closest of all mid-Tertiary contenders to the hominid lineage; the redundant genus *Paraustralopithecus ethiopicus* is placed directly ancestral to *Homo habilis*; and late Pleistocene hominid divergence is attributed to a remarkable speculation of ecological differentiation, that is, Neanderthal man as a forest dweller, *Homo sapiens sapiens* as a steppe denizen. A little difficult to comprehend is the enthusiastic endorsement in the foreword of Chaline's book by the doyenne of French Pleistocene studies, Henriette Alimen.

On a more general level, the reader will find much that is new or informative in both books. In particular, the Sparks and West volume is more comprehensive than West's earlier "Pleistocene Geology and Biology with Special Reference to the British Isles" (Longmans, London, 1968). In terms of methodology, it is somewhat more rigorous and perceptive than Flint's. Yet, despite their biological backgrounds, neither Sparks and West nor Chaline really succeeds in initiating a more successful ecobiological approach to the Pleistocene, and both studies also fall somewhat short in their consideration of prehistoric man-land interactions.

—KARL W. BUTZER

THE EUROPEAN CULTURE AREA: A Systematic Geography. By TERRY G. JORDAN. xvii and 381 pp.; maps, diags., ills., bibliogrs., index. Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, Evanston, and elsewhere, 1973. \$11.95. 10½ x 7¼ inches.

If one is looking for new material on European geography that appeals in its intellectual interest and readability both to laymen and to professional geographers and has a systematic approach with a cultural emphasis, then Terry G. Jordan's